Odia language

Odia (ଓଡ଼ିଆ 🔊 *Oṛiā* ; also romanised as **Odia**)[9] also formerly known as Oriya is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in the Indian state of Odisha.[10]

It is the official language in Odisha (formerly known as Orissa)[11] where native speakers make up 82% of the population,[12] also spoken in parts of West Bengal,[13] Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh,[14] and Andhra Pradesh.[15] Odia is one of the many official languages of India; it is the official language of Odisha and the second official language of Jharkhand.[16][17][18] The language is also spoken by a sizeable population of at least 1 million people in Chhattisgarh.

Odia is the sixth Indian language to be designated a Classical Language in India, on the basis of having a long literary history and not having borrowed extensively from other languages.[19][20][21][22] The earliest known inscription in Odia dates back to the 10th century CE.[23]

Odia	
ଓଡ଼ିଆ, *Oṛiā*	
ଓଡ଼ିଆ	
Pronunciation	[oɽiˈaː]
Native to	India
Region	Odisha, Jharkhand
Ethnicity	Odias
Native speakers	35 million (2011–2019)[1][2] L2 speakers: 4 million[1]

Language family	Indo-European
	• Indo-Iranian
	  • Indo-Aryan
	    • Eastern
	      • **Odia**

Writing system	Odia Script Odia Braille
Official status	
Official language in	🇮🇳 India (Odisha[3][4], Jharkhand[5])
Regulated by	Odisha Sahitya Akademi, Government of Odisha[6]
Language codes	
ISO 639-1	or (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langc

Contents

Geographical distribution

India

Odia is mainly spoken in the state of Odisha, but there are significant Odia-speaking populations in the neighbouring states, such as Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.[24]

Due to the increasing migration of labour, the west Indian state of Gujarat also has a significant population of Odia speakers.[25] Significant numbers of Odia speakers can also be found in the cities of Vishakhapatnam, Hyderabad, Pondicherry, Bangalore, Chennai, Goa, Mumbai, Raipur, Jamshedpur, Baroda, Ahmedabad, New Delhi, Guwahati, Shillong, Pune, Gurgaon, Jammu and Silvassa[26] According to 2011 census, 3.1% of Indians in India are Odia speakers,[27] of which 93% belong to Odisha.

Foreign countries

The Odia diaspora constitute a sizeable number in several countries around the world, totalling the number of Odia speakers on a global scale to 50 million.[28][29] It has a significant presence in eastern countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, mainly carried by the sadhaba, ancient traders from Odisha who carried the language along with the culture during the old-day trading,[30] and in western countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia and England. The language has also spread to Burma, Malaysia, Fiji, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Middle East countries.[29] It is spoken as a native tongue by the Bonaz community in northeastern Bangladesh although its use is gradually decreasing as they tend to opt to learning the Bengali language instead.

Spoken Standard of Odia

Spoken Standard of Odia is different than the Literary standard of Odia, which is used in literature and communication among people speaking different dialects. It is spoken mainly in the eastern half of the state of Odisha, in districts like Khordha, Puri, Nayagarh, Cuttack, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, and Dhenkanal districts without much variation.[31]

Major forms or dialects

- *Medinipur Odia (Medinipuria)*: Spoken in the undivided Midnapore and Bankura Districts of West Bengal.
- *Singhbhumi Odia*: Spoken in East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum and Saraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand

	odes_name.php?iso_639_1=or)
ISO 639-2	ori (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=342)
ISO 639-3	ori – inclusive code Individual codes: ory – Odia spv – Sambalpuri ort – Adivasi Odia (Kotia) dso – Desiya (duplicate of [ort])[7]
Glottolog	macr1269 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/macr1269) partial match[8]
Linguasphere	59-AAF-x

- *Baleswari Odia* (*Baleswaria*): Spoken in Baleswar, Bhadrak and Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.
- *Kataki Odia* (*Katakia*): Spoken in Cuttack, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Dhenkanal districts of Odisha.
- *Standard Odia* (official register dialect): Spoken in Puri, Khordha and Nayagarh districts of Odisha.
- *Ganjami Odia* (*Ganjami*): Spoken in Ganjam and Gajapati districts of Odisha and Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. A variation spoken in Berhmapur is also known as *Barampuria*.
- *Sambalpuri Odia* or *Sambalpuria* or *Samalpuria*: It is the western dialect of Odia language spoken in Sundargarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Balangir, Subarnapur and Nuapada districts along with parts of Boudh, Anugul, Kendujhargarh and Nabarangapur districts of Odisha and in Raigarh, Mahasamund and, Raipur districts of Chhattisgarh state.Although it has 75%–76% lexical similarity with Standard Odia .A 2006 survey of the varieties spoken in four villages found out that they share three-quarters of their basic vocabulary with Standard Odia.(Reference-Sambalpuri -Ethnologue, Mathai&Kelsall 2013, pp. 4–6. The precise figures are 75%–76%. This was based on comparisons of 210-item wordlists.)[32]
- *Desia Odia* or Koraputia-Kalahandi Odia (*Desiya*): Spoken in Nabarangpur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Koraput and Malkangiri districts of Odisha and in the hilly regions of Vishakhapatnam and, Vizianagaram districts of Andhra Pradesh..[32]
- *Phulbani Odia*: spoken in Kandhamal and in parts of Boudh district .
- *Bhatri*: Spoken in South-western Odisha and eastern-south Chhattisgarh.
- *Halbi*: Spoken in undivided Bastar district of Chhattisgarh. Halbi is a mixture of Odia and Marathi with influence of Chhatishgarhi tribal languages.
- *Laria/Chhattisgarhi*: Spoken in mainly Chattisgarrh. This is transitional language between Odia and Hindi . Often considered as a major dialect of Odia.[33] It is spoken in 25 districts of Chhattisgarh.

Minor non-literary and tribal dialects

Odia's minor dialects include:[34]

- **Sundargadi Odia** : A variation of Sambalpuri/Western Odia dialect Spoken in Sundargarh district of Odisha and in adjoining Simdega district of Jharkhand and certain pockets in Chhattisgarh.
- **Kalahandia Odia** : Variation of Odia spoken in undivided Kalahandi District and neighbouring districts of Chhattisgarh.
- **Debagadia Odia** : This is another variation of Sambalpuri/Western Odia dialect spoken in Debagarh District and neighbouring Rairakhol subdivision of Sambalpur district & Bonai subdivision of Sundargarh district. It's called Debagadia, Debgadia or Deogarhia.
- **Kurmi** Northern Odisha and South west Bengal.
- **Sounti**: Spoken in Northern Odisha and South west Bengal.
- **Bathudi**: Spoken in Northern Odisha and South west Bengal.
- **Kondhan**: A tribal dialect spoken in Western Odisha..
- **Laria**: Spoken in bordering areas of Chatishgarh and Western Odisha.
- **Aghria**: Spoken mostly by the indigenous people of Agharia caste in Sundargarh district.
- **Bhulia**: Spoken by Bhulia or Weaver community of Bargarh, Balangir, Sonepur & Kalahandi districts and its adjoining districts of Western Odisha.
- **Bodo Parja / Jharia**: Tribal dialect of Odia spoken mostly in Koraput district of Southern Odisha .
- **Matia**: Tribal dialect of Odia spoken in Southern Odisha.

- **Bhuyan**: Tribal dialect of Odia spoken in Southern Odisha.
- **Relli dialect**: Spoken in Southern Odisha and bordering areas of Andhra Pradesh.
- **Kupia**: Spoken by Valmiki caste people in the Indian state of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, mostly in Hyderabad, Mahabubnagar, Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts.

History

Odia is an Eastern Indo-Aryan language belonging to the Indo-Aryan language family. It is thought to be directly descended from an Odra Prakrit, which was spoken in east India over 1,500 years ago, and is the primary language used in early Jain texts.[35] Odia appears to have had relatively little influence from Persian and Arabic, compared to other major North Indian languages.

The history of the Odia language is divided into eras:
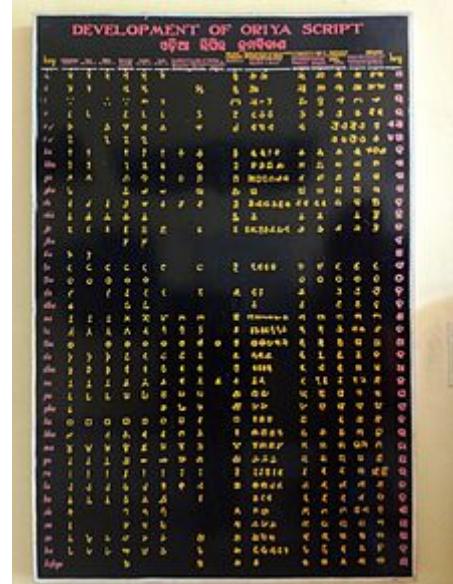
A detailed chart depicting evolution of the Odia script as displayed in a museum at Ratnagiri, Odisha

- Proto Odia (12th century and earlier): Inscriptions from 10th century onwards provide evidence for the existence of the Old Odia language, although the earliest known inscription that actually contains Odia lines is dated to 1249 CE.[36]
- Early Middle Odia (1200–1400): The earliest use of prose can be found in the *Madala Panji* of the Jagannath Temple at Puri, which dates back to the 12th century. Such works as *Shishu Veda*, *Amara Kosha*, *Gorakha Samhita*, *Kalasha Chautisha*, and *Saptanga* are written in this form of Odia.[37][38][39]
- Middle Odia (1400–1700): Sarala Das writes the *Vilanka Ramayana*.[40][41] Towards the 16th century, poets emerged around the Vaishnava leader Achyutananda, These five poets are Balaram Das, Jagannatha Dasa, Achyutananda, Ananta Dasa and Jasobanta Dasa.
- Late Middle Odia (1700–1850): *Ushabhilasa* of Sisu Sankara Das, the *Rahasya Manjari* of Deba Durlabha Dasa and the *Rukmini Bibha* of Kartika Dasa were written. A new form of metrical epic-poems (called *Chhanda-Kabya*) evolved during the beginning of the 17th century when Ramachandra Pattanayaka wrote *Haravali.* Upendra Bhanja took a leading role in this period- his creations *Baidehisha Bilasa*, *Koti Brahmanda Sundari*, *Labanyabati* were landmarks in Odia Literature. Dinakrushna Dasa's *Rasokallola* and Abhimanyu Samanta Singhara's *Bidagdha Chintamani* are prominent Kavyas of this time. Four major poets emerged in the end of the era are Baladeba Rath, Bhima Bhoi, Brajanath Badajena and Gopala Krushna Pattanaik.
- Modern Odia (1850 till present day): The first Odia printing typeset was cast in 1836 by the Christian missionaries which made a great revolution in Odia literature and language.

Charyapada of 8th Century and its affinity with Odia language

The beginning of Odia poetry coincide with the development of *charya sahitya*, the literature started by Vajrayana Buddhist poets such as in the Charyapada. This literature was written in a specific metaphor called twilight language and prominent poets included Luipa, Tilopa and Kanha. Quite importantly, the ragas that are mentioned for singing the Charyapadas are found abundantly in later Odia literature.

Poet Jayadeva's literary contribution

Jayadeva was a Sanskrit poet. He was born in an Utkala Brahmin family of Puri in circa 1200 CE. He is most known for his composition, the epic poem Gita Govinda, which depicts the divine love of the Hindu deity Krishna and his consort, Radha, and is considered an important text in the Bhakti movement of Hinduism. About the end of the 13th century and the beginning of the 14th, the influence of Jayadeva's literary contribution changed the pattern of versification in Odia.

Phonology

Odia has 29 consonant phonemes, 2 semivowel phonemes and 6 vowel phonemes.

Odia vowel phonemes[42]

	Front	Back
High	i	u
Mid	e	o
Low	a	ɔ

Play media
Pronunciation of Odia alphabet.
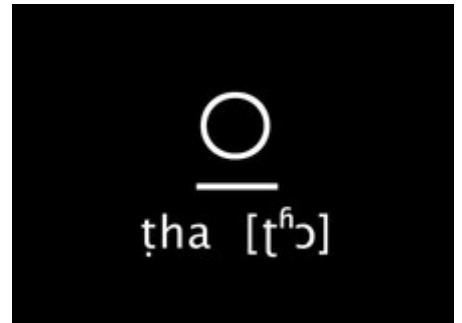
There are no long vowels. All vowels except /o/ have nasal counterparts, but these are not always contrastive. Final vowels are pronounced in the standard language, e.g. Odia [pʰulɔ] contra Bengali [pʰul] "flower".[43]

Odia consonant phonemes[42][44]

		Bilabial	Alveolar/Dental	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Nasal		m	n	ɳ		(ŋ)	
Stop/Affricate	**voiceless**	p	t	ʈ	tʃ	k	
	voiceless aspirated	pʰ	tʰ	ʈʰ	tʃʰ	kʰ	
	voiced	b	d	ɖ	dʒ	g	
	voiced aspirated	bʰ	dʰ	ɖʰ	dʒʰ	gʰ	
Fricative			s				h
Trill/Flap			ɾ~r	ɻ[45]			
Lateral approximant			l	ɭ			
Approximant		w			j		

The velar nasal [ŋ] is given phonemic status in some analyses. Nasals assimilate for place in nasal–stop clusters. /ɖ ɖʰ/ have the flap allophones [ɽ ɽʰ] in intervocalic position and in final position (but not at morpheme boundaries). Stops are sometimes deaspirated between /s/ and a vowel or an open syllable /s/+vowel and a vowel. Some speakers distinguish between single and geminate consonants.[46]

Morphology

Odia retains most of the cases of Sanskrit, though the nominative and vocative have merged (both without a separate marker), as have the accusative and dative. There are three genders (masculine, feminine and neuter) and two grammatical numbers (singular and plural). There are three true tenses (present, past and future), others being formed with auxiliaries.

Writing system

The Odia language uses Odia script (also known as the Kalinga script). It is a Brahmic script used to write primarily Odia language and less frequently Kui, Santali, Ho and Chhattisgarhi. The script has developed over more than 1000 years. The earliest trace of the script has been dated to 1051 AD. It is a syllabic alphabet or an abugida, wherein all consonants have an inherent vowel embedded within.

Odia is a syllabic alphabet or an abugida wherein all consonants have an inherent vowel embedded within. Diacritics (which can appear above, below, before, or after the consonant they belong to) are used to change the form of the inherent vowel. When vowels appear at the beginning of a syllable, they are written as independent letters. Also, when certain consonants occur together, special conjunct symbols are used to combine the essential parts of each consonant symbol.

The curved appearance of the Odia script is a result of the practice of writing on palm leaves, which have a tendency to tear if you use too many straight lines.[47]

Odia Letters

Diacritics ଂ ଃ ା ି ୀ ୁ ୂ ୃ ୄ େ ୈ ୋ ୌ ୍ ଁ ୖ ୗ

Numbers

୦୧୨୩୪୫୬୭୮୯

Vowels

ଅ ଆ ଇ ଈ ଉ ଊ ଋ ୠ ଌ ୡ ଏ ଐ ଓ ଔ ଐଁ [ସ୍ୱର ବର୍ଣ୍ଣ]

Consonants

କ ଖ ଗ ଘ ଙ ଚ ଛ ଜ ଝ ଞ ଟ ଠ ଡ (ଡ଼) ଢ (ଢ଼) ଣ ତ ଥ ଦ ଧ ନ ପ ଫ ବ ଭ ମ ଯ ର ଲ ଵ ଶ ଷ ସ ହ କ୍ଷ ୟ ଳ ଵ ୱ [ବ୍ୟଞ୍ଜନ ବର୍ଣ୍ଣ]

Literature

The earliest literature in Odia language can be traced to the Charyapadas composed in the 7th to 9th centuries.[48] Before Sarala Das, the most important works in Odia literature are the Shishu Veda, Saptanga, Amara Kosha, Rudrasudhanidhi, Kesaba Koili, Kalasha Chautisha etc.[37][38][39] In the 14th century, the poet Sarala Das wrote the Sarala Mahabharata, Chandi Purana, and Vilanka Ramayana, in praise of the goddess Durga. Rama-Bibaha, written by Arjuna Dasa, was the first long poem written in the Odia language.

The following era is termed the Panchasakha Age and stretches until the year 1700. The period begins with the writings of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu whose Vaishnava influence brought in a new evolution in Odia literature. Notable religious works of the Panchasakha Age include those of Balarama Dasa, Jagannatha Dasa, Yasovanta, Ananta and Acyutananda. The authors of this period mainly translated, adapted, or imitated Sanskrit literature. Other prominent works of the period include the Usabhilasa of Sisu Sankara

Dasa, the Rahasya-manjari of Deva-durlabha Dasa and the Rukmini-bibha of Kartikka Dasa. A new form of novels in verse evolved during the beginning of the 17th century when Ramachandra Pattanayaka wrote Haravali. Other poets like Madhusudana, Bhima Bhoi, Dhivara, Sadasiva and Sisu Isvara-dasa composed another form called kavyas (long poems) based on themes from Puranas, with an emphasis on plain, simple language.

However, during the Bhanja Age (also known as the Age of Riti Yuga) beginning with turn of the 18th century, verbally tricky Odia became the order of the day. Verbal jugglery, obscenity and eroticism characterise the period between 1700 and 1850, particularly in the works of the era's eponymous poet Upendra Bhanja (1670–1720). Bhanja's work inspired many imitators of which the most notable is Arakshita Das. Family chronicles in prose relating religious festivals and rituals are also characteristic of the period.

The first Odia printing typeset was cast in 1836 by Christian missionaries. Although the handwritten Odia script of the time closely resembled the Bengali and Assamese scripts, the one adopted for the printed typesets was significantly different, leaning more towards the Tamil script and Telugu script. Amos Sutton produced an Oriya Bible (1840), Oriya Dictionary (1841–43) and[49] *An Introductory Grammar of Oriya* (1844).[50]

Odia has a rich literary heritage dating back to the thirteenth century. Sarala Dasa who lived in the fourteenth century is known as the Vyasa of Odisha. He translated the Mahabharata into Odia. In fact, the language was initially standardised through a process of translating classical Sanskrit texts such as the Mahabharata, Ramayana and Srimad Bhagabata Gita. The translation of the Srimad Bhagabata Gita by Jagannatha Dasa was particularly influential on the written form of the language. Odia has had a strong tradition of poetry, especially devotional poetry.

Other eminent Odia poets include Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja and Kabisurya Baladev Ratha.

Prose in the language has had a late development.

Three great poets and prose writers, Kabibar Radhanath Ray (1849–1908), Fakir Mohan Senapati (1843–1918) and Madhusudan Rao (1853–1912) made Odia their own. They brought in a modern outlook and spirit into Odia literature. Around the same time the modern drama took birth in the works of Rama Sankara Ray beginning with Kanci-Kaveri (1880).

Among the contemporaries of Fakir Mohan, four novelists deserve special mention: Aparna Panda, Mrutyunjay Rath, Ram Chandra Acharya and Brajabandhu Mishra. Aparna Panda's Kalavati and Brajabandhu Mishra's Basanta Malati were both published in 1902, the year in which Chha Mana Atha Guntha came out in the book form. Brajabandhu Mishra's Basanta Malati, which came out from Bamanda, depicts the conflict between a poor but highly educated young man and a wealthy and highly egoistic young woman whose conjugal life is seriously affected by ego clashes. Through a story of union, separation and reunion, the novelist delineates the psychological state of a young woman in separation from her husband and examines the significance of marriage as a social institution in traditional Indian society. Ram Chandra Acharya wrote about seven novels during 1924–1936. All his novels are historical romances based on the historical events in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Odisha. Mrutyunjay Rath's novel, Adbhuta Parinama, published in 1915, centres round a young Hindu who gets converted to Christianity to marry a Christian girl.

One of the great writers in the 19th century was Pandit Krushna Chandra Kar (1907–1995) from Cuttack, who wrote many books for children like *Pari Raija, Kuhuka Raija, Panchatantra, Adi Jugara Galpa Mala*, etc. He was last felicitated by the Sahitya Academy in the year 1971–72 for his contributions to Odia literature, development of children's fiction, and biographies.

One of the prominent writers of the 19th and 20th centuries was Muralidhar Mallick (1927–2002). His contribution to Historical novels is beyond words. He was last felicitated by the Sahitya Academy in the year 1998 for his contributions to Odia literature. His son Khagendranath Mallick (born 1951) is also a writer. His contribution towards poetry, criticism, essays, story and novels is commendable. He was the former President of Utkal Kala Parishad and also former President of Odisha Geeti Kabi Samaj. Presently he is a member of the Executive Committee of Utkal Sahitya Samaj. Another illustrious writer of the 20th century was Mr. Chintamani Das. A noted academician, he was written more than 40 books including fiction, short stories, biographies and storybooks for children. Born in 1903 in Sriramachandrapur village under Satyabadi block, Chintamani Das is the only writer who has written biographies on all the five 'Pancha Sakhas' of Satyabadi namely Pandit Gopabandhu Das, Acharya Harihara, Nilakantha Das, Krupasindhu Mishra and Pandit Godabarisha. Having served as the Head of the Odia department of Khallikote College, Berhampur, Chintamani Das was felicitated with the Sahitya Akademi Samman in 1970 for his outstanding contribution to Odia literature in general and Satyabadi Yuga literature in particular. Some of his well-known literary creations are 'Bhala Manisha Hua', 'Manishi Nilakantha', 'Kabi Godabarisha', 'Byasakabi Fakiramohan', 'Usha', 'Barabati'.

20th century writers in Odia include Pallikabi Nanda Kishore Bal (1875–1928), Gangadhar Meher (1862–1924), Chintamani Mahanti and Kuntala Kumari Sabat, besides Niladri Dasa and Gopabandhu Das (1877–1928). The most notable novelists were Umesa Sarakara, Divyasimha Panigrahi, Gopala Praharaja and Kalindi Charan Panigrahi. Sachi Kanta Rauta Ray is the great introducer of the ultra-modern style in modern Odia poetry. Others who took up this form were Godabarisha Mohapatra, Mayadhara Manasimha, Nityananda Mahapatra and Kunjabihari Dasa. Prabhasa Chandra Satpathi is known for his translations of some western classics apart from Udayanatha Shadangi, Sunanda Kara and Surendranatha Dwivedi. Criticism, essays and history also became major lines of writing in the Odia language. Esteemed writers in this field were Professor Girija Shankar Ray, Pandit Vinayaka Misra, Professor Gauri Kumara Brahma, Jagabandhu Simha and Harekrushna Mahatab. Odia literature mirrors the industrious, peaceful and artistic image of the Odia people who have offered and gifted much to the Indian civilisation in the field of art and literature. Now Writers Manoj Das's creations motivated and inspired people towards a positive lifestyle .Distinguished prose writers of the modern period include Fakir Mohan Senapati, Madhusudan Das, Godabarisha Mohapatra, Kalindi Charan Panigrahi, Surendra Mohanty, Manoj Das, Kishori Charan Das, Gopinath Mohanty, Rabi Patnaik, Chandrasekhar Rath, Binapani Mohanty, Bhikari Rath, Jagadish Mohanty, Sarojini Sahoo, Yashodhara Mishra, Ramchandra Behera, Padmaja Pal. But it is poetry that makes modern Odia literature a force to reckon with. Poets like Kabibar Radhanath Ray, Sachidananda Routray, Guruprasad Mohanty, Soubhagya Misra, Ramakanta Rath, Sitakanta Mohapatra, Rajendra Kishore Panda, Pratibha Satpathy have made significant contributions towards Indian poetry.

Anita Desai's novella, *Translator Translated*, from her collection *The Art of Disappearance*, features a translator of a fictive Odia short story writer; the novella contains a discussion of the perils of translating works composed in regional Indian languages into English.

Four writers in Odia – Gopinath Mohanty, Sachidananda Routray, Sitakant Mahapatra and Pratibha Ray – have been awarded the Jnanpith, a prestigious Indian literary award.

Language sample

The first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Written in Odia: ଅନୁଚ୍ଛେଦ ଏକ:ସବୁ ମନୁଷ୍ୟ ଜନ୍ମକାଳରୁ ସ୍ୱାଧୀନ। ସେମାନଙ୍କର ମର୍ଯ୍ୟାଦା ଓ ଅଧିକାର ସମାନ। ସେମାନଙ୍କଠାରେ ପ୍ରଜ୍ଞା ଓ ବିବେକ ନିହିତ ଅଛି। ସେମାନେ ପରସ୍ପର ପ୍ରତି ଭ୍ରାତୃଭାବ ପୋଷଣ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବା ଦରକାର।

Spoken in Odia:

0:00 / 0:00

Written in English:*All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.*

Software

Google introduced the first automated translator for Odia in 2020.[51]

See also

- Brahmic scripts
- Languages of India
- Languages with official status in India
- Laxmi Puran
- List of languages by number of native speakers in India
- Madala Panji

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